Safety of underground nuclear plants

54. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Soviet Experts have concluded that underground nuclear plants are not so safe as reported in the Indian Express of 20th February, 1990; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the safety of the existing plants needs to be enhanced; if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Government are aware that as part of continuing post Chernobyl discussions in USSR on the safety aspects of nuclear power plants, opinions both for and against underground sitting of nuclear power plants have been expressed by the Soviet experts.

(b) In India, there are no underground nuclear power plants. Adequately engineered safety features have been provided in the Indian nuclear power plants in line with the International practices prevalent from time to time.

Transferring Schemes to States

55. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up schemes for transferring them to States;

(b) if so, the details of the Central Schemes which are likely to be transferred to States;

(c) whether detailed discussions have been held before transferring these schemes to States; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to effectively implement the schemes in States?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission is of the view that there should be a more selective approach to Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Eighth Plan. The large number of such schemes currently in operation are being reviewed critically with a view to determining which need to be continued at all, which may be transferred to the States along with the resources, and which may need to be retained. Final decisions have not yet been taken.

Review of anti-poverty strategy in the Seventh and Eighth Five Years Plans

56. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any critical review of the Seventh Five Year Plan anti-poverty strategy to know the overall achievements in the economic growth and reduction in poverty, particularly in the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the names of the States which have shown significant reduction in poverty line and those which are lagging behind in implementation of the programme;

(c) what is the percentage by which the outlay for poverty alleviation programme is proposed to be raised by Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) what are the broad features of the fresh strategy, if any formulated